

ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 50

It seems like every time we have a general election, someone asks for a few billion dollars for safe drinking water. This time we are being asked to pass the largest water bond in history. A whopping \$5.7 billion—when you consider the principal (\$3.44 billion) and the interest (\$2.24 billion).

In spite of all the water bonds California taxpayers have approved in the last 30 years, our Governor and Legislature have taken no action to develop new water storage facilities. In fact, the construction of dams and reservoirs has been at a virtual standstill for many years in California.

Most of water bond monies California voters have been approving have gone for endless studies of the problem, and to pander to unrealistic environmental demands.

It's time for all good taxpayers to say "no dice" to these bond schemes that do nothing to improve our long range water supply.

Yes, we are fast approaching a big water shortage crisis in California, the likes of which we have never seen before. Proposition 50 provides virtually no money to alleviate that crisis.

We need new dams on the American River at Auburn and on the upper San Joaquin River at Friant. \$3.44 billion will build both of them and provide us with a much needed new water supply.

We need to build the Sites Reservoir in Colusa County, and the Los Banos Grande Reservoir in Merced County to store an additional 6 million acre feet of new water for drought protection and to accommodate all the new construction of the last 30 years. \$3.44 billion would go a long way to build these worthwhile new reservoirs.

All of California desperately needs a diversion channel around the Delta so that excess water that now flows out the Golden

Gate into the ocean can be sent to drought stricken areas of our State. \$3.44 billion would substantially fund that project.

Proposition 50 does nothing to start, or plan for completion of any of the projects listed above.

Proposition 50 has been described as the "stealth bond issue." Proponents are trying to sell it as a clean drinking water initiative. However, all California taxpayers should know it was drafted by a Sacramento lobbyist for several environmental groups and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Supporters then hired professional signature gatherers and paid as much as \$2.50 a signature to qualify this deceptive initiative for the ballot.

What Proposition 50 really does is dole out bond funds to the pet projects of those environmental groups that paid to put it on the ballot. And, you and your children will have to come up with \$227 million each year for the next 25 years to pay for it.

Recently, a group of 30 taxpayer organizations from around the State met in Convention under the name California Taxpayer's Coalition and voted unanimously to oppose Proposition 50.

Vote no on Proposition 50.

For more information tedcosta@tedcosta.com or peoplesadvocate.org 1-800-501-8222.

ERNIE DYNDA, *President*

United Organizations of Taxpayers

EDWARD J. (TED) COSTA, *CEO*

People's Advocate

TOM C. ROGERS, *Chairman*

Citizens Against Unfair Taxation

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 50

PROP 50 IS NEEDED NOW TO PROVIDE A CLEAN, RELIABLE AND SAFE WATER SUPPLY FOR OUR FAMILIES AND OUR FUTURE.

We've made progress in improving water quality and reliability, but there's a lot more that needs to be done now. Prop 50 supports vitally needed water projects critical to ensuring clean drinking water and a reliable water supply.

Even the small groups opposing Prop 50 agree that OUR LOOMING WATER CRISIS MUST BE RESOLVED. But their approach, coming from people claiming to represent taxpayers, would cost drastically more than Prop 50's cost-effective approach.

PROPOSITION 50 WILL:

- *Keep our drinking water clean* by removing toxic substances and protecting our rivers, lakes and streams.
- *Keep our water flowing* by providing new water supplies, improving local water systems, and supporting water efficiency and conservation programs.
- *Protect our beaches, bays and coastline* by repairing aging sewer and storm water systems.

- *Keep our water system safe and secure* by protecting against terrorist threats and intentional contamination.

"Local water agencies responsible for providing Californians with safe drinking water agree: Prop 50 is vitally needed to provide a reliable supply of clean drinking water."—James Pretti, President of the Board, Contra Costa Water District

"Nothing is more important than secure water supplies. Prop 50 can help avert attacks on and contamination of our drinking water supply."—Lieutenant Ed Gray, President, California Organization of Police and Sheriffs

JOIN public safety groups, public health experts, water agencies, conservation groups, businesses and community groups throughout California in voting YES ON 50.

DAN TERRY, *President*

California Professional Firefighters

BARBARA INATSUGU, *President*

League of Women Voters of California

PHILLIP J. PACE, *Chairman*

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California